

9.0 GLOSSARY

Alpine: High elevation lands above the upper limited of tree growth. (See SUBALPINE.)

Anadromous fish: Species which migrate from the sea to spawn in fresh water; their offspring return to the sea and spend most of their adult lives there (e.g., salmon and steelhead).

Appraisals (timber): The calculation of stumpage volume or dollar minimum acceptable bid for a timber sale.

Barrier (wildlife): A natural or artificial obstruction that stops fish or animals from passing through.

Board Foot: A unit of quantity for timber, equal to the volume of a board 12 x 12 x 1 inches.

Board of Natural Resources: A state board that establishes policies for the Department of Natural Resources to ensure that the acquisition, management and disposition of lands and resources within the department's jurisdiction are based on sound principles. The board is composed of six members: the Commissioner of Public Lands, who chairs the board; the Governor; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Washington State University; the Dean of the College of Forest Resources, the University of Washington; and an elected representative from a county that contains Forest Board land.

Browse: Young twigs, leaves and tender shoots of plants or shrubs eaten by animals.

Buffer strips: A zone left untreated, usually located at the outer margin of the treated area or adjacent to streams. An area between a stream and a harvest area.

Cable yarding: A method of harvesting timber that employs cables to pull logs to a landing.

Canopy: The continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crowns of adjacent trees and other woody growth. **Understory canopy** refers to the forest undergrowth (the lowest canopy layer of trees). **Overstory canopy** refers to the tallest canopy layer.

Clearcutting: An even-aged silvicultural system in which all timber is removed over a considerable area (generally more than a few acres) at one time. This method establishes a stand without protection from an overstory canopy. The new stand is composed of artificially or naturally established trees and may include advance reproduction that was established prior to the harvesting.

Climax: The culminating stage in plant succession for a given site where the vegetation has reached a highly stable condition.

Community College Forest Reserve: A category of state forest lands established by the legislature in 1990. There are approximately 3,223 acres in the reserve, the smallest component of state forest lands. These lands, located near urban areas, form a buffer between working forests and suburban uses. The properties are managed for sustainable harvest production but special consideration is given to aesthetics, watershed protection and wildlife habitat.

Cover: Vegetation used by wildlife for protection from predators, or to ameliorate conditions of weather, or in which to reproduce.

Crop trees: Trees left following a thinning based on their dominance, vigor, form and spacing. These remaining trees develop long, deep crowns. They are larger and more economical and efficient to harvest.

Deferred lands: State forest lands that are deferred or postponed from harvest for a specified period of time. No harvesting occurs there during the period of deferral.

DEIS: Draft environmental impact statement. A public document prepared pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Diversity: The relative degree of abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats or habitat features per unit area.

Duff: Partly decomposed organic matter on the forest floor.

Easement: A right held by one person to make use of the land of another for a limited purpose, such as a right of passage.

Ecosystem: Interacting natural system including the component organisms and environment.

Enabling Act: The Congressional Enabling Act of 1889, which authorized statehood for Washington. This act provided the state with Federal Grant lands to be held in trust for the support of the state's public institutions and placed limits on the sale, lease and management of these lands.

Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species: Rare plant and animals are assigned one of three categories.

1. **Endangered.** A plant or wildlife species in danger of becoming extinct or extirpated in the near future if factors contributing to its decline continue. These are species whose populations are at significantly low levels, or whose habitat has been significantly degraded or depleted. Extinction means the species is gone throughout its range; extirpation means it is gone from part of its range.

2. **Threatened.** A plant or wildlife species likely to become endangered in the near future if factors continue that contribute to its population decline or to habitat degradation or loss.

3. **Sensitive.** a. A plant species with small populations, or localized distribution that is not now endangered or threatened, but whose populations and habitat will be jeopardized if current practices continue. b. A wildlife species of concern because of its uniqueness, rarity, scientific value or vulnerability to human disturbance of land management activity.

Endemic: Native; restricted to a single or particular locality or region.

Environmental checklist: A brief list set forth in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for analyzing or describing the environmental impacts of a proposed project.

Environmental impact statement: A document prepared under the State Environmental Policy Act (or the National Environmental Policy Act) to assess the effects that a particular action will have on environmental conditions.

Escheat: State trust land acquired from estates that have no wills or heirs.

Eutrophication: The process in which a water body becomes rich in dissolved nutrients and/or deficient in oxygen.

Evapotranspiration: Loss of water from soil by evaporation and by transpiration from plants growing on it.

Even-age: A system of forest management in which stands are produced or maintained with relatively minor differences in age.

Extirpated: A species that has been destroyed or removed from a portion of its natural territory.

Federal Grant lands: Endowments of land by the United States to the State of Washington to be sold, leased or managed to support designated beneficiaries in perpetuity. There are approximately 1.463 million acres of forested Federal Grant lands in the state.

FEIS: Final environmental impact statement. A public document prepared pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Fertilization: The act or process of increasing biological growth by applying natural and/or synthetic materials, including manure, nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, spread on or worked into the soil to increase fertility.

FLMP: See Forest Land Management Program.

Forage: Vegetation used for food by wildlife, particularly hoofed wildlife and domestic livestock.

Forb: Fleshy-leaved plants.

Forest Board Lands: State forest lands acquired by gift, purchase or transfer to perpetuate the forest resources of Washington. Forest Board lands may not be sold. The legislature has directed that they be held in trust and administered and protected as other state forest lands. There are approximately 607,000 acres of Forest Board lands in Washington.

Forest Board Transfer Lands: One of two types of Forest Board lands. Most were tax-title lands that were transferred from the counties to the state in the 1920s and 30s to be managed as productive forest land. Approximately 530,000 acres of state forest lands fall into this classification.

Forest Board Purchase Lands: One of two types of Forest Board lands. These lands are gifts to the state or were purchased by the Forest Board to be managed as state forest lands. Approximately 77,000 acres fall into this classification. Many were purchased by the department during the Great Depression. They were reforested by the department and now support second growth timber stands.

Forest health: A condition where biotic and abiotic influences on the forest (i.e. insects, diseases, animals, adverse weather, atmospheric deposition, silvicultural treatments and harvesting practices) do not threaten management objectives for a given forest stand, now or in the future.

Forest health practices: The methods by which forest stands and trees may be treated to cure problems brought on by any cause which impedes or otherwise affects normal growth.

Forest Land Management Program (FLMP): A 10-year forest land plan that was prepared by the Department of Natural Resources in 1983 and approved by the Board of Natural Resources in 1984. The Forest Resource Plan is intended to replace the FLMP.

Forest Practices Act: A comprehensive state statute establishing minimum standards for forest practices and providing for necessary administrative procedures, rules and regulations applicable to activities conducted on or pertaining to forests on both state and private lands.

Forest Practices Board: A state board created as the body that writes forest practices regulations which are administered and enforced by the Department of Natural Resources.

Gene pool reserves: Native stands of trees removed from the commercial forest base to ensure that native genetic material well adapted to local conditions will be available in the future.

Geographic Information System (GIS): A computer database that allows one the department to perform the following tasks: 1) assign information and attributes to polygons and lines, which represent special relationships on the ground; and 2) update and retrieve inventory, mapping and statistical information. The GIS is the management tool that the department proposes to use for setting landscape-level planning objectives.

Green-tree retention: An approach during timber harvest of leaving a few live trees per acre for seeds and wildlife habitat, future snags and a source of diversity in canopy height.

Ground water: Water beneath the ground surface, consisting largely of water that has seeped down; the source of water in springs and wells.

Habitat: The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by plant or animal species or a population of such species.

Habitat capability: The capacity of a unit of land to support a wildlife population.

Habitat diversity: A mix of the component parts found within a particular habitat. Also, the number of different types of habitat within a given area.

Integrated Pest Management: The department's strategic process for dealing with forest pests. It is a decision-making tool that incorporates biological, economic, social and environmental considerations.

Intensive forest management: Activities, in addition to those required for basic management and stand establishment, designed to increase timber growth and develop greater yield of forest products. Typically, it refers to precommercial thinning, fertilizing and pruning, separately or in combination.

Landscape: A broad geographic area that is defined by a natural boundary, identified for the purposes of making forest land management decisions. A landscape is made up of plants, terrain features, aquatic elements and animals, which provide the environment to support a significant part or all of life needs for the plants and animals located in the area.

Landscape-level planning: The department's process of planning for a specified landscape by setting specific objectives (for example, timber production and protection of wildlife) for the area in question.

Large organic debris (LOD): Trees larger than 4 inches in diameter and longer than 6 feet. It provides habitat diversity (fish cover, velocity and turbulence) and streambed stability.

Late successional stages: Old growth and mature stands of trees that exhibit a set of ecological characteristics, including structure, composition and function.

Management activity: A particular course of action designed to accomplish a specific management objective, such as planting, precommercial thinning or harvesting.

Marginal lands: Those state forest lands on which regeneration of a new stand will be difficult after initial harvest.

Mass wasting: The movement of large volumes of earth down a slope. A landslide.

Mature trees: Trees in vigorous condition but where growth rates are declining. In Douglas-fir trees, this condition is typically found in trees 100 to 160 years old.

Microclimate: The local climate of a small site or habitat.

Micro-organisms: Minute organisms invisible or barely invisible to the unaided eye.